(iii) to create strong market linkages for raw jute and to assist jute growers to get better price for their crops;

(iv) to increase productivity in organized jute sector, develop new diversified jute products and increase their market share.

The Government also provides financial assistance to jute industry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). For providing incentives for exporters, the External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme has been extended for a period of one year *w.e.f.* 01.04.2002. The Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme has also been extended to the jute sector.

Restrictions on export of textiles/clothing apparel

1646. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of textiles, clothing apparel was subjected to certain restrictions during the year 2002;

(b) if so, the details of textiles, clothing apparel exports for the last three years, as on today, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether India filed a case against US against its modified rules of origin for textiles and clothing apparel articles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to revive the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Exports of textiles and clothing (including; knitwear), which are subject to quantitative restraints in certain developed countries *i.e.* USA, Member States of European Union and Canada, are regulated by means of; the Export Entitlement Distribution Policies (for garments and textiles respectively formulated by the Government from time to time under the provisions of EXIM Policy. The current Garments and Knitwears Export Entitlement Policy 2000-04 and Yarn, Fabrics and Made-ups Export Entitlement Policy 2000-04 were annoucned on November 12, 1999.

(b) The value of textile exports from the country during the last three years and the current year *i.e.* upto July, 2002 are given below:—

Year	Value (in US$ Million)
1999-2000	10508.6
2000-2001	12037.6
2001-2002	10715.0
2002-2003 (April-July)	3846.0

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

The country-wise details are not maintained by the Ministry.

The USA, EU Member States, U.A.E. Japan, Saudi Arabaia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia, etc. are the major importing countries of our textile goods.

(c) and (d) On India's request, a WTO panel has been established on 24th June, 2002, that is presently considering India's claims in this dispute. India and the US have already made their first written submissions to the panel.

(e) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen the textile industry. some of the important initiatives are:

(i) the Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI setor. It has also announced the de-reservation of knitted segment in the Union Budget 2002-03.

(ii) In case any unfair trade practices come to the notice, action, if necessary, under anti-dumping, countervailing measures etc. of the WTO could be taken.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50% Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.This further encourages modernisation.

(v) with a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(vi) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.

(vii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(viii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to confrom to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(ix) The Government has launched a Centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. A provision of Rs. 14.5 crore has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(x) for upgrading infrastructure facilites at important textile centres, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)' has been launched. A provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

Government and private sector mills in the country

1647. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL; Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the textile mills under Government and private sectors in the country, mill-wise;

(b) the number of mills which are closed; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to revive the closed mills in the contry?